

July Overview
Kings Canyon Backcountry Trails Crew
Supervisor: Tessa d'Usseau

Overview:

Our camp move to Palisade Lakes is the highlight of this past month. We packed up all our gear from Lewis Creek on July 1st and started our journey across the Sierra via Yosemite and Tioga Pass, finally reaching the South Lake Trailhead in the Inyo National Forest where we spent the night. Early the following morning, we hit the trail for our 20+ mile hike to our new home for the rest of the season. We hiked up and over 11,972' Bishop Pass and down to the Le Conte Ranger Station on the PCT where we spent the night. Thanks to Backcountry Ranger Chris Miles, Jess, and Ellery for welcoming us to the Kings Canyon Backcountry and giving us a spot to rest our weary bodies. The next morning, we were up early, hitting the trail and the final leg of our journey to our Palisade Lake camp. We are all nestled in to our new home and busy working projects along the PCT and exploring this beautiful country.

Curriculum, evening activities and special events:

Our evening curriculum this month consisted of weekly community meetings (thanks to Andrew, Sean and Nick for facilitating these meetings). Weekend trip planning, a presentation by NPS archeologist, Emily Long and a class on X-country travel led by our NPS sponsors (Andy, Greg, Alicia, and Edlyn). We spent an evening reading through the crew's backcountry applications reminding us why we wanted to be a part of this program and are our expectations being met. Other classes included Calisthenics (Andy Head), Learn-Tos (Norma Eggman), and "Mallorcan Style" wall construction (Edlyn Cleverger). We've also kept up on safety with classes on helicopter safety, Fall Protection and weekly JHA's, plus our daily tailgate safety circle-ups. Our finale for the month was our Christmas Celebration and gift exchange followed by an open-mic evening of entertainment.

Thank You:

- David "Doug" Stuart for taking on the arduous hike in to visit Sandy and the crew!
- Edlyn, Andy, Greg and Alicia our NPS sponsors for all you do for us every day!
- Emily Long for hanging out with us for a couple of days and teaching us about some of the historical artifacts you found in the area!
- Phil Gross for the awesome "Fall Presentation" class and for being part of our crew for a week!